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*Comparably garnished.

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# New store is more than just a business

By Bill Sherrod

Bert Peters has always had what he calls a "special fondness" for the Town of Pamplin.

Even before he moved there in 1970, Bert liked the town and its people. His mother, the former Edith Williams, was a native of Pamplin, and he spent summers during his youth visiting his grandparents, Danny and Betty Williams.

It was in Pamplin that Bert met his wife, Linda, the daughter of Willard and Ruby Price.

With this in mind, it's not difficult to understand the reasoning behind Peters' latest project, a new country store on Main Street in Pamplin.

Bert, who with his wife Linda and their three children, Allison, Timmy and Rick will operate the business, recently held a grand opening for Peters' Country Store.

While a new business opening in itself may not seem extraordinary, Peters' approach to the new country store -- his reasons for opening it, his method of selecting construction materials and fixtures, and his plans for the store's future -- set this business opening apart from the normal.

"I'm an artist," notes Bert, who has a pyrography studio on Route 460 near the town. "In constructing the interior of this store, I treated it the same way I treat all my art: with great affection.

Peters explains that his aim in opening the store was to ultimately re-capture a portion of the "flavor" of Pamplin as it was during its heyday.

"The project combines my love of art and my love of the past," Bert explains.

For example, the store occupies the same space as W. R. Brightwell's General Store, which thrived during the peak years of Pamplin's prosperity.

And much of what's inside the store dates to the pinnacle of Pamplin's past.

"We have the original chocolate cooler from Brightwell's store," says Bert. "We also have an old coke box and an old nail bin from Howard William's store, and an old cash register from Ligon's General Store," he adds.

"I guess you could say that this is a conglomorate of stores that have passed in Pamplin," Bert says. "We're trying to collect as many original Pamplin items to put in the store as possible."

Fixtures of local origin include a sewing machine that belonged to Linda's grandmother, Alpha Tweed, and a wood stove that belonged to Linda's father, Willard Price.

Andy Corbett, a friend of Bert's who helped rebuild the interior of the store, has in the store a collection of relics such as arrowheads and Civil War artifacts which he has collected from this area. Andy also contributed his grandmother's butter churn to the decor of the store.

The materials which Bert used to renovate the interior of the store are themselves of local origin, he adds. "Burruss Lumber Company let me go on the wood yard and pick out the materials I wanted to use for the inside of the store," notes Bert. "So you could say even the wood is Pamplin wood."

Peters' artistry is apparent in the physical design of the store. The rough-cut lumber he used conjures up visions of heartland America in its finest hour, with the old-timers chewing the fat around the pot-bellied stove in back, while the kids munch on chocolate and stare in wonder as trains pass by the storefront's big windows.

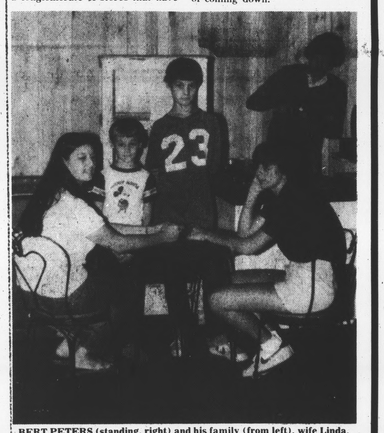
Peters' Country Store has the back-room wood stove, where farmers can talk and play checkers; and the front of the store is an ice cream parlor, complete with antique ice cream parlor tables and chairs.

"I'm hoping the store will develop into a gathering place for the town people," Bert says. "Just like in the old days."

Bert, who credits his enthusiastic outlook on life to his father, the late Herbert Peters of Howardsville, says he has sought to help the morale of Pamplin, the community he likes so much.

"For so long, it seemed that things were going away from Pamplin," he says. "First the businesses, then the town's only industry, the garment factory, then the school.

"I think it's helped the town's attitude a little bit, if just a bit, to see something going back up instead of coming down."



BERT PETERS (standing, right) and his family (from left), wife Linda, sons Timmy and Rick, and daughter Allison, take an ice cream break inside their new country store. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

# 'Thanksgiving Ball' set

Xi Gamma Tau Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority of Appomattox will sponsor a "Thanksgiving Ball" on November 19, according to Chapter president, Janice McCormick.

The Country and Western dance will be held at the Avalon Club on Friday, November 19, from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. Music will be provided by the well-known Lynchburg group, "Southern Comfort".

Tickets and information may be obtained from McCormick, telephone 352-7676 or 352-8211, or from dance chairman Peggy Smith, telephone 352-7239.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MEMBERS OF THE 1983 CLASS of the Southside School of Practical Nursing from Appomattox County include: Miss Pamela Robertson, Miss Mary Lee Bryant, Mrs. Deborah Paulette, and Miss catherine Ragland.

# Two honored

(Continued from page 1)

Programs at Westvaco and promotion of the Sportsmen's Ethics Movement with other groups statewide.

He serves on the Operation Respect Council and was chairman for organizing the states first conference last January in Richmond on Sportsmen-Landowner Relations.

Coffman maintains a close working relationship with the School of Forestry and Wildlife Resources at Va. Tech providing woodlands tours and lectures while also serving as a liaison for cooperative research projects between the school and Westvaco timberlands.

He has developed and presented slide programs on conservation topics to numerous sportsmen groups, garden clubs, civic organizations, high schools, colleges, and government agencies.

During the past two years he has been instrumental in the publishing of more than 30 articles in newspapers, and regional magazines featuring natural resource management and conservation.

Coffman continually applies his personal interests in conservation to his professional activities. He also gives freely and unselfishly of his time to assure the success and effectiveness of conservation communication programs with which he is involved.

The Timberlands Division of the Westvaco Corporation received special recognition from the Department of Interior during the Awards Program. Accepting the award was Scott Wallinger, Vice President of Westvaco and manager of its Timberlands Division.

The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs was recognized as the Conservation Organization of the Year. The garden clubs have an outstanding record of accomplishment statewide promoting conservation through education programs such as their Nature Camp near Lexington and Environmental education workshops given for citizens interested in solving environmental issues. Garden club members are concerned citizens who are making significant contributions in promoting conservation in community, homes, and public institutions.


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That's the great thing about Lt. Governor Dick Davis. Dick always has taken the time to listen -- and respond. His success in helping other people by being attentive to their concerns has been recognized on many occasions. His awards include the Humanitarian of the Year, the Distinguished Virginian Award, the Sportsman of the Year, the Man of the Year for Area Cooperation and the Portsmouth Citizen of the Decade Award. We often have an opportunity to vote for someone who talks a lot...Rarely does a good listener like Dick Davis come along.

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A veteran in defense of America, Dick Davis knows the meaning of sacrifice. During World War II, he made six amphibious landings on islands like Okinawa, Saipan and Tarawa. He rose in the ranks from Private to Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps. After the War, he formed a Marine Reserve unit at the University of Virginia, and the unit was called up in the Korean War. Dick's distinguished military record exemplifies his love of country and his desire to excel in all endeavors.

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